

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 608
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MAPUTO 1092

LUSAKA PLEASE PASS TO AMB CLARK AND TO STAFFDEL FREEMAN

E.OO. 11652: GDS
TAGS: E.AID, SREF, MZ, US
SUBJECT: REFUGEE SURVEY TEAM VISIT TO ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CAMP

1. SUMMARY. DCM, REFUGEE SURVEY TEAM LED BY AMBASSADOR CLARK, AND STAFFDEL FREEMAN AND BALANCE VISITED ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CAMP AT DOROI ON SEPTEMBER 3. VISIT WAS ARRANGED BY MOZAMBIQUE'S NEW NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF REFUGEES. CONDITIONS AT DOROI WERE DEPRESSING. MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM WAS IN FIELD OF HEALTH. CAMP LACKED ADEQUATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND NEARLY TEN PER CENT OF REFUGEES WERE SUFFERING FROM VARIOUS AFFLICTIONS. CLOTHING, EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, BLANKETS AND FARM TOOLS WERE ALSO IN SHORT SUPPLY. FOOD SITUATION WAS BETTER, ALTHOUGH DAILY DIET WAS VITAMIN AND PROTEIN DEFICIENT. ONE BRIGHT SPOT AT DOROI WAS ADMINISTRATION OF CAMP. DESPITE NUMEROUS DIFFICULTIES, CAMP OFFICIALS WERE RUNNING CAMP IN EFFICIENT MANNER. THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT CAMP WAS BEING USED BY ZIMBABWEAN COMBATANTS AS GUERRILLA BASE. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON SEPTEMBER 3 DCM CARSON, REFUGEE SURVEY TEAM OF AMBASSADOR EDWARD CLARK, JESSE SNYDER AND KARL KOHLER AND STAFFDEL FRANK BALLANCE AND CONSTANCE FREEMAN TRAVELED TO CENTRAL MOZAMBIQUE TO VISIT UNHCR-SPONSORED ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CAMP AT DOROI. VISIT WAS ARRANGED BY FRANCISCO LANGA, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF REFUGEE SERVICES, AND HIS DEPUTY FRANCISCO KUFA.

KUFA ACCOMPANIED GROUP ON TRIP. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF VISIT:

3. GENERAL SETTING. DOROI IS LARGEST OF THREE ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CAMPS IN MOZAMBIQUE. ACCORDING TO DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DOROI, CURRENT CAMP POPULATION CONSISTS OF 17,200 REFUGEES, MOSTLY SCHOOL AGE BOYS AND GIRLS BETWEEN AGES OF EIGHT AND EIGHTEEN AND MIDDLE AGE ADULTS. THERE WERE NO EXTREMELY YOUNG CHILDREN AND NO ELDERLY ADULTS IIIIN CAMP. TO FACILITATE ADMINISTRATION, CAMP IS DIVIDED INTO SIX VILLAGES OF APPROXIMATELY EQUAL SIZE. FOUR OF THE VILLAGES HOUSE FAMILIES WHILE TWO OTHERS ARE SINGLE-SEX HOSTELS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS. WITH EXCEPTION OF ONE STRUCTURE, ALL OF THE HOUSES IN CAMP ARE CONSTRUCTED OF WOOD AND MUD WITH THATCHED ROOFS.

4. HEALTH. HEALTH CARE IS PROBABLY THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM FACING DOROI. HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ARE RUDIMENTARY AND SUBSTANDARD: MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY: AND OVER TEN PER CENT OF THE REFUGEES ARE AFFLICTED WITH VARIOUS ILLNESSES, INCLUDING PNEUMONIA, TROPICAL ULCERS, DYSENTARY, CHIGGERS AND NUMBER OF OTHER MALADIES. DURING VISIT, AMERICAN DELEGATION OBSERVED NUMEROUS BOYS AND GIRLS WHO COULD HARDLY WALK BECAUSE OF SEVERE SKIN ULCERS ON THEIR FEET AND LEGS. MOST OF THE SICK WERE BEING TREATED IN A CENTRAL DISPENSARY (AN OLD FARM HOUSE) AND TWO RECENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSTRUCTED THATCHED ROOF HOSPITALS. THE CAMP HAS TEN TRAINED ZIMBABWEAN NURSES (AND AT LEAST FORTY OTHERS WHO HAVE SOME MEDICAL TRAINING), BUT THEIR WORK IS HAMPERED BY INADEQUATE FACILITIES AND SUPPLIES. THERE ARE NO DOCTORS WORKING AT THE CAMP, ALTHOUGH CAMP OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THE PATROTIC FRONT (ZANU) AND THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT ARE NOW TRYING TO RECRUIT SEVERAL ZIMBABWEAN DOCTORS. (THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT UNHCR AND UNESCO DONATED MEDICAL SUPPLIES WERE REACHING THE CAMP IN LARGE OR SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES.)

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 IO-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06

AID-01 /036 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6209

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MAPUTO 1092

LUSAKA PLEASE PASS TO AMB CLARK AND TO STAFFDEL FREEMAN

5. FOOD. FOOD IS ALSO A PROBLEM. THE CURRENT CAMP DIET IS PROTEIN AND VITAMIN DEFICIENT. WHILE REFUGEES ARE APPARENTLY RECEIVING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF MAIZE MEAL, THEY APPEAR TO BE GETTING LITTLE ELSE IN THE WAY OF FOOD. IN WANDERING AROUND CAMP, AMERICAN VISITORS DID NOT SEE ANY MILK, MEAT, FISH, FRUIT OR VEGETABLES. WHILE CAMP OFFICIALS WERE RATHER VAGUE ON HOW FREQUENTLY HTYE RECEIVED FOOD SUPPLIES OTHER THAN MAIZE MEAL, THEY INDICATED THAT THEY ARE WORKING HARD TO INCREASE CAMP FOOD PRODUCTION. FOR EXAMPLE, IN PAST YEAR, REFUGEES HAD CLEARED FIFTY ACRES OF LAND FOR MAIZE PRODUCTION. IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF SMALL PLOTS WERE ALREADY PRODUCING MODEST SUPPLIES OF VEGETABLES.

6. CLOTHING. MOST OF THE REUGEES WERE POORLY CLOTHED. MANY APPEARED TO BE WEARING SAME TATTERED CLOTHES IN WHICH THEY LEFT RHODESIA. ONLY SMALL NUMBER OF THE REFUGEES HAD SHOES AND SWEATERS, EVEN THOUGH COOL AND DAMP WEATHER CALLED FOR THEM.

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7. SANITATION. MAINTAINING A SAFE SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER ALSO POSES PROBLEM FOR DOROI. THE CAMP'S DRINKING WATER IS DRAWN FORM A STREAM WHICH IS ALSO USED FOR BATHING AND WASHING CLOTHES. DOROI DOES NOT HAVE A WATER PURIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OR ANY WATER PUMPS. ALTHOUGH CAMP OFFICIALS HAVE WORKED HARD TO PREVENT ANY WATER RELATED ILLNESSES FROM OCCURING, THEY RECOGNIZE THAT A DANGEROUS HEALTH SITUATION COULD RESULT FROM CURRENT SITUATION.

8. EDUCATION. DOROI HAS A LARGE SHCOOL AGE POPULATION

AND CAMP OFFICIALS HAVE CONSTRUCTED SEVERAL LARGE SCHOOLS. HOWEVER, VERY LITTLE INSTRUCTION IS TAKING PLACE. THE CAMP DOES NOT HAVE ANY BOOKS OR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS. ACCORDING TO CAMP OFFICIALS, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 200. REFUGEES WHO COULD SERVE AS INSTRUCTORS IF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS WERE AVAILABLE.

9. CAMP ORGANIZATION. THE MOST POSITIVE ASPECT ABOUT DOROI IS CAMP ADMINISTRATION. MOZAMBICAN OFFICIALS AND LOCAL CAMP LEADERS (WHO ARE ZANU/MUGABE SUPPORTERS) ARE (DESPITE NUMEROUS HANDICAPS) RUNNING CAMP IN SMOOTH AND EFFICIENT MANNER. REFUGEES HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED INTO VARIOUS UNITS TO CONSTRUCT HOUSES, COOK FOOD, CLEAR LAND AND TO DO AGRICULTURAL WORK. CAMP LEADERS ARE ALSO HIGHLY MOTIVATED AND HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF SELF-RELIANCE.

10. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON REFUGEE SITUATION AT DOROI (SEE MAPUTO 445, 425, 119, 99 AND OTHERS). HOWEVER, THIS IS FIRST TIME EMBOFF HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO PERSONALLY VISIT CAMP. ALTHOUGH SITUATION IS NOT AS "CHAOTIC" AND ADMINISTRATIVELY "DISORGANIZED" AS WE HAVE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE, OVERALL SITUATION AT DOROI IS DEPRESSING, CONFIDENTIAL

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DISHEARTENING AND SERIOUS. THERE IS ALMOST NO AREA, EXCEPT IN CAMP ADMINISTRATION, WHERE ADDITIONAL FOOD, EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND CLOTHING WOULD NOT BE IMMEDIATELY HELPFUL AND ALSO WANTED. ZIMBABWEAN OFFICIALS AT CAMP WERE PLEASED TO HEAR NEWS OF OUR FOOD ASSISTANCE AND THANKED AMERICANS FOR PAST ASSISTANCE.

11. IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT VISIT OF EMBASSY OFFICER AND REFUGEE SURVEY TEAM TO DOROI IS SOMETHING OF A PRECEDENT. AS FAR AS EMBASSY AND LOCAL UN OFFICIALS ARE AWARE, THIS IS FIRST TIME ANY OFFICIALS FROM ANY GOVERNMENT (OR EMBASSY) HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO VISIT ANY REFUGEE CAMP IN MOZAMBIQUE. IN PAST VISITS TO CAMPS HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED TO UN OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS AND HANDFUL OF LEGISLATORS (NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS BUT FRIENDLY TO FRELIMO). ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT SAY WHY GOVERNMENT ALLOWED US TO ESTABLISH PRECEDENT, OUR RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF FOOD AID ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE TO AID REFUGEES PROBABLY HELPED.

12. THIS CABLE WAS NOT CLEARED WITH REFUGEE SURVEY TEAM OR STAFFDEL BALLANCE AND FREEMAN.
CARSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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